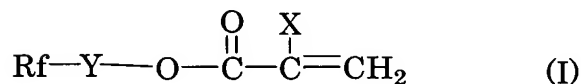


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A surface treatment agent comprising a fluoropolymer which has repeating units derived from a fluorine-containing monomer of the formula:



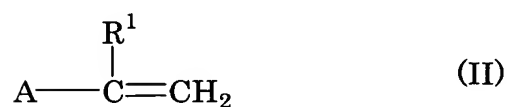
wherein X is a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, an iodine atom, a CFX^1X^2 group (in which X^1 and X^2 are each a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom), a cyano group, a linear or branched fluoroalkyl group having 1 to 21 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted benzyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group;

Y is an aliphatic group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aromatic or cycloaliphatic group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, a $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^1)\text{SO}_2-$ group (in which R^1 is an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms) or a $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OY}^1)\text{CH}_2-$ group (in which Y^1 is a hydrogen atom or an acetyl group); and

Rf is a linear or branched fluoroalkyl or fluoroalkenyl group having 1 to 21 carbon atoms, or a fluoroether group having totally 1 to 200 repeating units selected from the group consisting of the repeating units: -C₃F₆O-, -C₂F₄O- and -CF₂O-, and
wherein (a) the fluoropolymer contains a silicon atom, and/or (b) the surface treatment agent comprises the fluoropolymer (a first polymer) and a second polymer different from the first polymer, the second polymer being a silicon-containing polymer which contains a silicon atom.

2. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-containing fluoropolymer comprises a fluorine-containing monomer and a silicon-containing monomer.

3. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 2, wherein the silicon-containing monomer is represented by the formula:



wherein A is a monovalent group having at least one silicon atom, and R¹ is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

4. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 3, wherein the A group in the formula (II) is represented by the formula:

R_{Si}-X-

wherein R_{Si} is

$R^{11}-(Si(R^{12})_2)_p-$, or

$R^{11}-(Si(R^{12})_2-O)_p-$

(in which the R^{11} group is a hydrogen atom, or a C_1 - C_8 alkyl group or a C_6 - C_8 aryl group; the R^{12} groups may be the same or different, each of which is a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_8 hydrocarbon or halogenated hydrocarbon group optionally having a functional group; and p is a number of 1 to 100); and

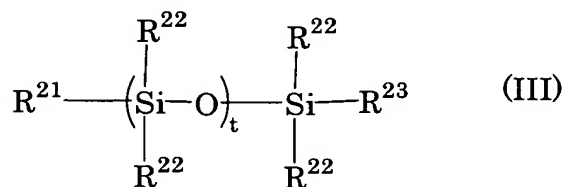
X is a direct bond, $-(CH_2)_q-$ (in which q is a number of 1 to 20), $-(CH_2)_r-O-$ (in which r is a number of 0 to 20), or $-(CH_2)_s-OC(=O)-$ (in which s is a number of 0 to 20).

5. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 2, wherein the silicon-containing fluoropolymer contains a fluorine-free and silicon-free monomer in addition to the fluorine-containing monomer and the silicon-containing monomer.

6. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 5, wherein, in the silicon-containing fluoropolymer, the amount of the silicon-containing monomer is from 0.01 to 50 parts by weight, and the amount of the fluorine-free and silicon-free monomer is 50 or less parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the fluorine-containing monomer.

7. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-containing polymer as the second polymer different from the fluoropolymer is a siloxane polymer.

8. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 7, wherein the siloxane polymer is a compound of the formula:



wherein the R^{21} and R^{23} groups are each a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_8 hydrocarbon group (e.g., a C_1 - C_8 alkyl group or a C_6 - C_8 aryl group) or a functional group-containing group; the R^{22} groups may be the same or different, each of which is a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_8 hydrocarbon group, a C_1 - C_8 halogenated hydrocarbon group, or a functional group-containing group; and t is a number of 1 to 200.

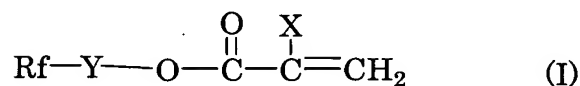
9. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the silicon-containing polymer as the second polymer is 0.01 to 50 parts by weight, per 100 parts by weight of the fluoropolymer.

10. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, wherein the R_f group is a fluoroalkyl or fluoroalkenyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

11. (original): The surface treatment agent according to claim 1, which is in the form of a solution, an emulsion or an aerosol.

12. (original): A silicon-containing fluoropolymer comprising:

(A) repeating units derived from a fluorine-containing monomer of the formula:



wherein X is a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, an iodine atom, a CFX^1X^2 group (in which X^1 and X^2 are each a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom), a cyano group, a linear or branched fluoroalkyl group having 1 to 21 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted benzyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group;

Y is an alkylene group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms or

a $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OY}^1)\text{CH}_2-$ group (in which Y^1 is a hydrogen atom or an acetyl group); and

Rf is a linear or branched fluoroalkyl or fluoroalkenyl group having 1 to 21 carbon atoms, or a fluoroether group having 1 to 200 repeating unit selected from the group consisting of the repeating units: $-\text{C}_3\text{F}_6\text{O}-$, $-\text{C}_2\text{F}_4\text{O}-$ and $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$; and

(B) repeating units derived from a silicon-containing monomer.

13. (original): The polymer according to claim 12, wherein the silicon-containing fluoropolymer contains a fluorine-free and silicon-free monomer in addition to the fluorine-containing monomer and the silicon-containing monomer.

14. (currently amended): A method for treating a substrate with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~.

Preliminary Amendment
National Stage of PCT/JP2004/008245

15. (currently amended): A textile treated with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~.

16. (currently amended): A carpet treated with the surface treatment agent according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~.